WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus that achieves cooperation among at least two work-flow systems, a first one of the work-flow systems including at least a first computer apparatus serving as a work-flow server and an electronic mail sender, a second one of the work-flow systems including at least a second computer apparatus serving as a work-flow server, an electronic mail storage, and a network that connects at least the first computer apparatus and the electronic mail storage, the work-flow cooperation processing apparatus comprising:

   a method-server apparatus that connects to the network and to the second computer apparatus, that reads electronic mail from the electronic mail storage, the electronic mail being sent from the first computer apparatus and including a command related to work flow in the second work-flow system, and that transmits a command forming part of the electronic mail to the second computer apparatus for execution of the command by the second computer apparatus.

2.   A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first computer apparatus sends the electronic mail for storage in the electronic mail storage according to whether electronic-mail processing is designated at each node of a work flow in the first one of the work-flow systems.

3.   A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the method-server apparatus first determines that the electronic mail read from the electronic mail storage is related to a work flow in the second one of the work-flow systems before transmitting the command to the second computer apparatus.

4.   A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the command is an activation command that activates a work flow in a work-flow system.

5.   A work-flow cooperation processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic mail is text data, and the text data includes a parameter specifying a work flow in a work-flow system.

6.   A work-flow cooperation processing system, comprising:

   first and second work-flow systems;

   electronic-mail storage apparatus that stores electronic mail sent from the first work-flow system;

   a method-server apparatus that connects to the second work-flow system, that reads electronic mail from the electronic mail storage apparatus, the electronic mail being sent from the first work-flow system and including a command related to work flow in the second work-flow system, and that transmits a command forming part of the electronic mail to the second work-flow system for execution of the command.

7.   A work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems, comprising the steps of:

   storing electronic mail sent from a first one of the plurality of work-flow systems in an electronic-mail storage;

   reading out the electronic mail from the electronic-mail storage;

   sending a command related to a work flow in a second one of the plurality of work-flow systems to the second one of the work-flow systems, the command included in the read-out electronic mail; and

   executing the sent command for the work flow in the second one of the work-flow systems.

8.   A work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of:

   designating electronic-mail processing in at least one node of a work flow in the first one of the plurality of work-flow systems.

9.   A work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of:

determining that the electronic mail read from the electronic mail storage is related to a work flow in the second one of the work-flow systems before transmitting the command to the second one of the work-flow systems.

10. A program that is executable by a computer for performing a work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems, the program executing the steps of:

storing electronic mail sent from a first one of the plurality of work-flow systems in an electronic-mail storage;

reading out the electronic mail from the electronic-mail storage;

sending a command related to a work flow in a second one of the plurality of work-flow systems to the second one of the work-flow systems, the command included in the read-out electronic mail; and

executing the sent command for the work flow in the second one of the work-flow systems.

11. A recording medium for storing a program that is executable by a computer for performing a work-flow-system cooperation method for a plurality of work-flow systems, the program executing the steps of:

storing electronic mail sent from a first one of the plurality of work-flow systems in an electronic-mail storage;

reading out the electronic mail from the electronic-mail storage;

sending a command related to a work flow in a second one of the plurality of work-flow systems to the second one of the work-flow systems, the command included in the read-out electronic mail; and

executing the sent command for the work flow in the second one of the work-flow systems.